The Daily Eurofurence

Maritim Hotel Magdeburg. Thursday, September 2nd, 2010 #7

Kyo and Taibu are thrilled to see their creation finally on the big screen. photo: bat

A Labour of Love

Sometimes there are achievements which can be considered incredible not only because of their value as an expression of art, but also because of their completion—even if all the odds seem to be stacked against them. Kyo's "Streifen", a full–length animated movie, premiering this Friday at 3 pm (running time: 90 minutes) is one such an example.

"Streifen" is the result Kyo's deep personal desire to create a movie. It's what could be described as a dream project and while he does think that the furry fandom probably connects the most with it, he doesn't consider "Streifen" a Furry movie per se. "The movie is a modern fairy-tale. It's the struggle of a young god for power and love in a primordial universe where every ambition turns into a crusade," states Kyo.

The movie's original form consisted more of a sequence of special-effects scenes, and experiments in 3D set construction. This resulted in a product which didn't satisfy the creator. This version was overhauled with more focus on story, plot and structure. Kyo had next to no experience with the process of movie-making and achieved much through trial and error, taking inspiration from theatre-plays when it came to narration. This led to moments of hardship and anguish, but his determination to finish the project pulled him through. Kyo however, made it clear that his approach should not be taken as advice for people who want to do similar works. "It worked for me but it's certainly not a good way for everyone else." Patience was the most important virtue since One minute of film (24-frames per second) required up to fourty-eight hours of render time.

A prequel to "Streifen", called "Panzerol" is already in the works, and future projects are an option—especially if there is interest by other creative minds wishing to be part of the process. (cur)

Alexander James Adams in Concert, EF14 - photo: bat

AJA in Concert

"I'm not going to dance on this thing," Alexander James Adams laughs as he points to the piano. He only just found out that his concert takes place in the Piano Bar. Unlike other years, he will perform solo. Besides his fiddle and a guitar, he may also use CD–playback for "Karaoke" versions of some songs.

The Thursday audience can look forward to a number of yet–unheard songs from the upcoming album Un–seelie Self, in which AJA explores some of the darker sides of his imagination. "There are vampires and spooky monsters," he says. His current single, What are we doing is dark in another sense—it was written in reaction to the recent BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. (lux)

Hungry furs queue in the rain. photo: ang

BBQ

This year's opening ceremony was notably concise. Cheetah spoke briefly and presented accomplished members of Eurofurence staff. Charity for this year was explained and ways to give donations briefly described by those responsible. This also includes the official Donation Meerkats, who will be around the convention looking for your donations. Uncle Kage was content to not even speak, only pointing Cheetah out for photography.

The barbeque itself started out with the usual long queue, food having been made available from the outside terrace–area at the back of the hotel. Although the prices were itemized this year instead of the single payment of years past, this didn't seem to make those attending any less happy about the food. "It's great!", answered one fur enjoying a burger when asked their opinion of the barbeque (hHP)

The Wolf of Magdeburg

This week, beasts walk the streets of Magdeburg—or at least, occupy the Maritim Hotel, providing an interesting sight to the citizens of the city. But what many Furry Fans attending EF may not know...is that this happened once before, long ago.

In the early 1800s, wolves would descend the mountains during harsh winters and roam the streets in search of food. Their presence kept people indoors.

One particularly harsh winter, infants began to disappear from their nurseries in the night, one after another, gripping the town in fear. The townspeople demanded action from the town burghers, and one—a magistrate named Breber—determined from prints in the new-fallen snow, that a single wolf was responsible. The wolf was acting alone. Boldly entering homes in the night, silently carrying off its prey.

Curfews were ordered; Watches established. The abductions continued; the lone wolf never seen. The failure to end the attacks made Breber the target of public outrage and ridicule. His own wife even stopped talking to him.

As the crisis continued, even the Lord Mayor was victimed. Panic filled the air. Desperate, Breber began patrolling the streets with his men. One night, in the fog and snow, he became disoriented and sought shelter in a doorway. Taking a moment to light his pipe, he was knocked down by a ragged figure. He recognised his attacker as one of the first mothers to lose a child. As he rose, she giggled insanely and muttered, "The night has teeth, the night has claws! And I...I have FOUND THEM!"

She turned away wandering down the street. Breber following, beyond the town gate, over the fields, to the edge of the forest. He had lost sight of her. A scream came from a hunting lodge, closed for the winter. Upon entering, he saw the woman, now a bleeding corpse. Standing over her and a small wrapped bundle was a huge wolf.

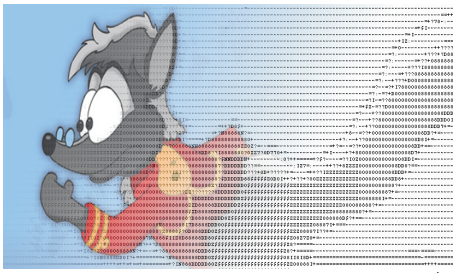
The wolf lunged at Breber, who made a desperate slash at its throat. The wolf fell. Breber stabbed at it repeatedly; the wolf transformed. Now lying before him was the body of a woman...his wife.

Breber returned to town with the still-living infant, and made his report. He asked the townsfolk to dispose of his wife´s body. The abductions ended that night; the town burghers concluded that Breber´s wife, during a hunting expedition through the Harz, drank from an enchanted pool or stream, which in turn lead to her transformation.

And so for this week, in Magdeburg, once again the night has teeth and claws (rex).

In the Muck

Twenty years after its creation, FurryMUCK still attracts a loyal user–base. But isn't text–based role–playing an anachronism in the age of Second Life?



art: pegla

"Well there's a two–toed bat playing cards with a mink and there's a pack rat making away with the kitchen sink"—the variety of characters that Matthew Ebel described in his humorous song "In the Muck" can still be found on FurryMUCK. Established in 1990, the platform was the first to combine the fast–paced textual role–play of MUDs with anthropomorphic aesthetics.

Twenty years later, graphical social–platforms like Second Life are widely used within the furry community. For FurryMUCK, the trend has been declining. Some younger furs have never even heard of it. Is it a dying platform? "I don't think so", says StukaFox. We meet the vulpine aboard his hoover–van vehicle, politely reciprocating his greetings by typing ":greets happily again".

StukaFox, who stumbled upon FurryMUCK in 1993 over a posting in the alt.fan.furry newsgroup, is convinced that the MUCK format will always remain preferable for some, being richer and more personal. "All have their own impression of the world. I also think FM lends itself to better conversation, better relationships. With SL, you're talking to a picture—on FM, you're talking to a character."

Given the the visual impact and possibilities of the newer platforms, is it still worthwhile to give venerable old FurryMUCK a try? We think so. The text–based format requires only a very simple client; it can run it on your netbook or smartphone. The communities are usually very friendly and welcoming, and there is plenty to see. Most MUCKs also allow you to build your own home or event space—for free! And with language as a medium, creativity is limited only by imagination. Who would have imagined how much fun a creative textual snowball fight could be? (hhp)

Picture of the Day

Some wolves are polite, and get to know their potential prey. photo: ang

A Letter to the "Daily"

[Editor's note: just before going to press this morning, we found a badly–written note stuffed under the main front gates of the Daily Eurofurence publishing emporium. Reading between the toothmarks and drool–stains, we were able to piece together the following]

Dear People,

I am one of the Eurofurence dogs, and I *love* it here. Being a dog at Eurofurence is, like, the greatest gig on earth. Excitement, interest and attention all day long? Sign me up!

But before you pet me, please imagine what a furry convention is like from the height of a dog's nose. I spend the whole day pushing through a forest of legs, under a riot of noise and smells, a constant rain of petting hands, and all the while I'm wondering what happened to my comfortable daily routine. It's total fun—but it can be just a little bit bewildering.

Here's a few tips to make my con less stressful and more fun:

* Pet me! Please! But first check with the person who's holding my leash. Remember that it's their job to shield me if I need a break.

* Remember basic dog etiquette. Move gently, and let me know you're there before you touch me. Avoid staring, but keep an eye on me to see how I'm responding to you. Don't touch my head until we know each other—pet my haunches, shoulders and throat instead.

* *Don't* Feed me snacks; they're *not* good for me. *[Editor's note: the "Don't" and "not" are scrawled in the margin in a different pen.]*

And that's all. I plan to have a wonderful convention. Come and say hi!

Love,

M__ch_ *[Editor's note: signature illegible.]*

Announcements:

The location of the fursuit photoshoot has been changed from Salon Magdeburg to Maritim 2 (in front of the fursuit lounge)

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If you leave tips in your room for the cleaning staff, leave a note; otherwise they will think you left it by mistake

Today's Timetable

Art Show
Setup..... 09:00–12:00
General Admission.....12:00–18:00

Dealers' Den
Setup..... 09:00–12:00
Supersponsor Preview.....12:00–13:00
General Admission.....13:00–18:00

Guest of Honour
Why a Rabbit (Dresden).....13:30–15:00

Supersponser Exclusive
Sake Appreciation (Dresden).....15:00–16:30

Fursuit Photoshoot (Maritim 2)
Registration.....12:00–13:00
Shooting.....13:00–17:00

Fursuiting
Fursuit Gameshow
Prelims (Lobby)..... 12:00–15:00
First-Time Fursuiting (Stutt).....13:30–15:00
Advanced Fursuit Building (Mün)...13:30–15:00
Advanced Fursuit Design (Mün)..15:00–18:00
Stage Fever Rehearsal (Main).....16:30–19:30
Stage Fever 4: Live from the Wild
The EF Fursuit Show (Main)...19:30–21:00
Fursuit Dance (Main Stage).....21:30–

Events
Welcome to Eurofurence (Stutt)...12:00–13:30
Furries in the Press (Halle).....13:30–15:00
Beginning Puppetry (Nürn)..... 13:30–15:00
Alexander James Adams Live (Piano). 15:00–17:00
Banner Brawl (Main)..... 15:00–16:30
Video Editing Round Table (Dres).. 15:00–16:30
Game Developers Round Table (Halle). 15:00–18:00
Author Reading Round Table (Nürn). 15:00–18:00
Avian Characters (Dres).....16:30–18:00
Heathen City Backstage:
Commentary and QA (Stutt)...16:30–18:00

Recurring
Artists' Lounge (Dresden)..... 20:00–
Dance Dance Revolution (Stutt)..... 20:00–
Video Game Corner (München)..... 20:00–
Game Corner (Halle)..... 20:00–

Impressum: Luxen: Michael Graf; Curry: Andreas Wieland; hHP: Hannu-Heikki Puupponen; Angus: Matthias Bauer; Batian_Lion: Phillip Belper; Ice-Wolf: Carlos Koch; Vulpes Rex: